NEW PUBLICATIONS.

BANCROFT'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED

MISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. By GEORGE BANGGOT, Vol IX. pp. 105, Boston. Little, Brown, & Co. The conduct of Washington during the most eventful period of the war of the Revolution is the splendid theme which clothes the present volume of Mr. Bancroft's great work with a peculiar attractiveness. ripe, consummate glories of the illustrious Father of of peril and doubt in which his character failed of of malignant jealousies, his military skill subjected to in obscurity and silence to supplant him in command

Within less than one month from the date of the Declaration of Independence the condition of the Revelationary cause exhibited but faint signs of promise. The gloom that hung over the country was deepening its shades. Lord Howe had recently entered upon the scene with overtures of peace. He was confident of his ability to act the part of a successful mediator. He thought that he had only to ride about the country and talk with the principal inhabitants, in order to restore the authority of the king by concession and compromise. Before his arrival in New-York, he had boasted that within tendays after his landing peace would be made. Joseph Rued, who had held a prominent place in the counsels of the patriots, thought that the overtures of the British Commissioner should not be rejected, and offered through Robert Morris most cheerfully to take such a part "on the occasion as his situation and offered through Robert Morris most cheerfully to take such a part "on the occasion as his situation and abilities would admit." General Greene had already Roed, who had held a preminent place in the counsels of the patriots, thought that the overtures of the British Commissioner should not be rejected, and offered through Robert Morris most cheerfully to take such a part "on the occasion as his situation and abilities would admit." General Greene had already warned John Adams of the hopelessness of the contest; and now again expressed the opinion, "I still think you are playing a desperate game." Dickinson, of Pennsylvania, who had drawn up the articles of confederation submitted to Congress on the twelfth When were so much shattered that after resting a day, he finished his journey to camp in a carriage. Though lodging within half a mile of hostile troops, be never

his country.

The political organization presented formidable ob-The political organization presented formidable ob-stacles to the vigorous prosecution of the war. The attempt in Congress to form an effective confederation of the States had proved a failure. The arrangement of its details offered questions of difficult solution. Mutual jealousies prevailed between different portions of the country. Congress could discover no grounds of general agreement, and accordingly, it was neces-asy to fight the battles of independence under the imperfect organization by which it had been declared. The Government had little power, and as a consequence, the inilitary operations were subject to perpetual embarrassment. Not a single soldier had been enlisted directly by the United States. A standing army was deemed a deadly foe to the liberties of the people. Hence the enlistment of citizens was limited to short terms. The national defense was committed to the ebb and flow of the militia of the several States. fantry could be dispatched, Governor Trumbull sent three regiments of light horse instead. Composed under Washington, neglected to make reports at head-quarters. When mildly rebuked for his retreat from Crown Point, he resented the interference of Wash-ington as an "unprecedented" procedure, and claimed an equal focting with the council of the Commanderin equal footing with the council of the Commander-in-Chief. Washington bore these rivalries of his sub-ordinates with dignity and composure. Their insid-ious attacks never disturbed the screnity of his spirit. Shielded by his consciousness of rectitude, he regarded them less as personal offenses than as aids to the pub-Previous to the disastrous battle of Long Island,

the resources and discipline of the army were in such a deplorably defective state, as would have thrown a less earnest and courageous commander than Washington into despair. The task before him was one of appalling difficulty. In accordance with the wishes of Congress, and of the State authorities, he felt himef Congress, and of the State authorities, he felt himself bound to attempt the defense of New-York Island.
In order to protect the city, he was compelled to hold
Kingsbridge, Governor's island, Paulus-hook, and the
hights of Brooklyn. All of these posts were divided
by water, and some of them fifteen miles apart. For
their defense, he had but a little more than ten
thousand and five hundred men fit for duty. Many
of them were often obliged to sleep without cover.

God bysisters and beginning and beginning want. Good physicians, medicines, and hospitals were wanting. Diseases were contracted from exposure to the rain and dew, and more than three thousand lay sick. They were obliged to seek shelter in the neighboring barns and sheds, and sometimes nostied in the latter and at the side of board fences. Of the effective men, not six thousand had any experience of military service. None had been in the army more than one year. Some were wholly without wapons. Not one regiment of infantry was properly equipped. The regiment of artillery was properly equipped. The regiment of artillery was properly equipped. The regiment of artillery was properly equipped. The regiment of militia made good disciplina impossible. Among the major-generals around Washington, there was not one on whom he could fully rely. The military judgment of Greene was still crude. The brigadiers were nottained, and some of them without aptitude for service. The general officers knew not enough of war, to rightly estimate danger, while the timid and timeserving disguised their want of courage in action by their spirited votes in council. The soul of Washington rose with the occasion. His words were full of hope and lofty cheer. In the orders of the day he appealed to the soldiers by every motive that could animate the breasts of freemen. He bade them remember that life, liberty, and honor were all at stake, and that heaven would crown with success so just a pause. To the brave he promised rewards. The coward who should skulk in time of battle, he threatened with instant death. He summoned all to resolve to conquer or die. Good physicians, medicines, and hospitals were wanting. Diseases were contracted from exposure to the

threatened with instant death. He summoned all to resolve to conquer or die.

But the defeat of the Americans in the battle of

n a thicket or a swamp crept back to his old companions. The captives were forced to endure coarse in sults. Crowded together in narrow rooms or noison

Washington is admirably permayed by Mr. Bancroft, in his profound analysis of the character and motives of that treacherous, malignant chief. He had sequired a brilliant prestige with the army on account of his conduct at the South. Although he had advised the surrender of the forts in Charleston harbor without In his projound analysis of the canada and acquired a brilliant prestige with the army on account of his conduct at the South. Although he had advised the surrender of the forts in Charleston harbor without firing a single-gun he had the credit of facing Clinton in Virginia, and in North Carolina, and of driving him with shane from South Carolina. His return to New-York was eagerly looked for by the troops. One of the officers wrote: "He is hourly expected as if from Heaven with a legion of faming sweedsmen." His arrival, "said Tilghaeats, the most faithful member of Washington's staff, "will greatly relieve our worthy general, who has too much for any mortal worthy general, who has too much for any mortal worthy general, who has too much for any mortal worthy general, who has too much for any mortal worth the researches of unlumes within the limits of a page. He has not the passion for story-telling which was the primary inpulse of history, telling which was the primary inpulse of history, telling which was the primary inpulse of history in the limits of a page. He has not the passion for story-telling which was the primary inpulse of history, telling which was the primary inpulse of history, telling which was the primary inpulse of history inpulse of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the composition of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the composition of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the composition of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the composition of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the composition of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the composition of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the composition of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the composition of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the construction of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the construction of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the construction of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the construction of a philosophical treatise; less so, in the construction of a philosophical treatise; l the signal wisdom with which he met the treachers and make of the fees in his own household, of the segacity with which he seized every advantage of opportunity, and the calm, hopeful endurance which never desected him even in seasons of almost universal despondency and misgiving.

Within less than one mouth from the date of the Declaration of Independence the condition of the Registrates. In passing through the country on his way to New-

York Lee found much in public sentiment that chimed in with his disposition to make peace with Great Britian. The Convention of Maryland was ready to come to terms. Pennsylvania was divided on the question. The spirit of reaction lurked among the people of Philadelphia. Their lukewarm officers in the army Philadelphia. Their lukewarm officers in the army threw up their commissions. A majority were eager for negotiation, and a considerable party insisted on absolute submission. In New-Jersey there was an inclination to condemn the Americans for continuing the contest. With the alleged concurrence of the most active friends of the cause in New-Jersey and the other provinces he had passed through, Lee proposed that Congress should authorize the offer of a negotiation with Lord Howe on his own terms. But the proposal of the pretended patriot received no atthe proposal of the pretended patriot received no at-

The position of Washington at this time was painful in the extreme. In his own words, he was "bereft of every penceful moment, losing all comfort and happiness." With no suspicion that any one could covet his office, he was saily watching the effects of the delay in Congress to mise an army. Aware that he could be but of little service to the cause by retaining his command, he foresaw the inevitable ruin that would follow his retirement. "Such is my situation," said he privately, "that if I were to wish the bitterest curse to an enemy this side of the grave, I should put him in my stead with my feelings." He wrote to Congress that affairs were in a most unpromising way, that the army was on the eve of dissolution; yet his appeals were without effect. The supineness of that body was unparalleled in the history of legislation. Nothing could open their eyes to the perils of the hour. In spite of the warnings of Washington, they were still confident of a respite for the Winter.

In the latter part of October, Washington gave proof of his military sagacity by withdrawing his army to the high ground above White Plains. But his strength was wasting away under the system of short enlistments. The militia would soon have a right to go home and did not always wast for their dischare. Not

three regiments of light horse instead. Composed chiefly of the rustic yeomany, mounted on their farm-horses, armed with fowling pieces, and without uniform dress, the undisciplined soldiers became objects of ridicule to officers from the south. The scorn was promptly returned by the Connecticut farmers who looked upon these dainty warriors as "butterflies and coxcombs." There was no forage for their horses, there was no service for them as cavalry, and in less than-ten days they were discharged in disgust. At the same time, the army was a prey to petty dissensions among the officers. The pride of equality prevailed. Every one insisted on his own opinion. Every one questioned the wisdom of his superiors. Gen. Gates, for instance, though holding a command under Washington, neglected to make reports at headment. His arrangements for the safety of the army, in view of the anticipated attack by the British commander, were ample and well concerted. But he was not seconded by his generals, who acted as if they were his peers. Lee, in possession of a separate command, refused to cooperate with his superior. Greene framed his measures in direct opposition to the instructions of Washington. The consequence was the fall of Fort Washington, which gave Lee a fresh opportunity for the exercise of his accustomed intrigue and insubordination. He neglected his orders to move the army, spread false rumors in Congress to the disparagement of Washington, and aspired to a grant of supreme power. The treachery of this infamous adventurer was suddenly cut short by his falling into the hands of the British. The British of the British of the British of the British of the famous retreat of ninety miles through the Jerseys had been successfully accomplished. Seldom has such a march been made with so few facilities for its performance. The season was one of the most inclement in the year.

The troops were often in sight, and within cannon shot, of the enemy. No hopes of a speedy victory lent animation to their steps. The principal purpose of the retreat was to gain time, till mid-winter and impassable roads should afford protection. The actors in the scene looked back with dismay on the disasters they had passed through, and wondered by what source of inspiration they had been sustained. The secret is explained by the influence of Washington, in secret is explained by the influence of Washington, in whose rare nobleness of character the cause of the patriots found its only hope. "The virtues of their leader touched the symmathies of officers and men; they bore each other up with perseverance, as if conscious that few and wasted as they were, they were ret to save their country." They loved the regeneral with a waster, enthusiastic love, and had nothing against him but the little care he took of himself while in action.

against him but the little care he took of himself while in action.

Nor were the people less alive to the signal merits of the commander-in-chief. "He is the greatest man on earth," wrote Robert Morris from Philadelphia. "From Baltimore, William Hooper, the Representative from North Carolina, thus echoed back his words: "Will posterity believe the tale? When it shall be consistent with policy to give the history of that man from his first introduction into our service, how often America has been rescued from ruin by the mere strength of his genius, conduct, and courage, encountering every obstacle that want of money, men, arms, ammunition, could throw in his way, an impartial world will say with you, that he is the greatest man world will say with you, that he is the greatest man on earth. Misfortunes are the element in which he on earth. Mistortunes are the element in which his picture appears to the greatest advantage. He rises superior to them all; they serve as foils to his fortitude and as stimulants to bring into view those great qualities which his modesty keeps concealed. I could fill the side in his praise; but anything I can say cannot equal his merits."

To Congress, however, which had become infected

in Congress, however, which had become infected equal his merits."

In Congress, however, which had become infected by selfish schemers, there were signs of impatience at his superiority. They were unwilling to acknowledge that the misfortunes of the country were owing to their neglect of his advice. Even so vehement a patriot as John Adams could object to giving him power to nominate generals, saying: "In private life I am willing to respect and look up to him; in this house, I feel myself to be the superior of George Washington." His sturdy namesake of Hoston, Samuel Adams, could ill conecal his chagrin at the slow progress of affairs, and more than once expressed his feelings in words that savored of a petulance foreign to his nature: "I have always been so very wrong-headed as not to be over-well pleased with what is called the Fabian war in America." When Washington heard of these reproaches, he answered: "We havelsome amongst us, and I dare say generals, who wish to make themselves popular at the expense of others, or who think the cause is net to be advanced otherwise than by fighting; the pecular contents of the same of but the defeat of the Americans in the battle of Long Island seems to have been an inevitable necessity. Washington had frankly informed Congress that the landing of the British could not be prevented. Nothing could be done but to harass them as much as Nothing could be done but to harass them as much as possible. Just at this time, Greene became ill of a raging fever. The loss of his service was irreparable, for he was familiar with the ground, and the works in Brocklyn had been built under his eye. His place was supplied by Sullivan, whose military qualities were of an humble character. But the ill-forume of the day was mainly due to the incompetence in Patnam. In spite of warning, he was taken by surprise, and by his reckless orders, the flower of the American army was placed in the most dangerous position into which brave men could have been thrown.

The gloom of the surrender was deepened by the sufferings incident to the defeat. A bleak north-castsriy wind had sprung up at the close of the day. The British errory slept in front of the lines at Brooklyn, wrapped in their blanklets, and warmed by fires.

Many of the American solders passed the night with-cent shelter, shivering in the cold. The dead lay unterested in the forest. The severely wounded languished where they fell, and died uncared for and alone.

to be loaded with all the obloquy they can bestow, if

to be loaded with all the obloquy they can bestow, if I commit a wilfulerror."

Such is the spirit in which Washington bore the unjust repreaches which fell upon him. His conduct presents a beautiful union of meekness and dignity. He never forgot the obedience and respect that were due to Congress as the representative of the people. His tranquil wisdom and cheerful fortitude proved too strong for public ramors; he tired out evil tongues and evil fortune; and, sure in his mind that "posterity was his own," he saved his country by "boldness, constancy, and the gain of time."

In the execution of this volume, Mr. Bancroft, we think, has surpassed the previous profuctions which have justly given him the front rank among the American historians whose names are cherished with a

ican historians whose names are chemical which noble pride both by the people and by scholars. It is rich in the essential qualities which constitute a classical history. In thoroughness of research, in the minute and unwearied comparison of authorities, in combined acuteness and sobriety of deduction, in the broad paneramic view of cotemporary events, in the broad paneramic view of cotemporary events, in the to exhibit the truth in the most concise manner; he uses few words to illustrate events of the greatest moment; and crowds the researches of volumes within cal imagination, and presenting an effective con-trast to the prevailing historical severity of his style. The pregnant wealth of substance which is imbedded in his work reminds one oftener of the sententious brevity of Tacitas, than of the flowing melody of Xenophon; and hence it will always be more congenial with the tastes of readers who are in pursuit of exact and solid instruction, than of those who dally with books for the sake of resthetic attractions. At the same time, it must be admitted, that many of the descriptive portions of this volume attractions. At the same time, it must be admitted, that many of the descriptive portions of this volume are models of terse and animated expression. Nothing could surpass the interest which has been given by Mr. Bancroft to his accounts of the battle of Long Island, and the subsequent retreat of the army, the surrender of Fort Washington and the retreat through the Jerseys, the capture of Burgoyne, and the dismal Winter at Valley Forge; although in less capable hands the materials would have doubtless been stread over a larger space, and been found in a more tration of details to compactness and energy of state-ment. From the highly finished individual portrait-ures, which are evidently a favorite task with Mr. Bancroft, and in which be always shows peculiar mastership, we must make room for the brillian

only when he had something to say that needed to be said, and compelled admiration because he made hinself understood. What was entangled he could unfold quickly and incidity, now speaking with copious flaency, and now discussing point by point; at one time confining debate within the nerrowest limits, and again speaking as if inspired to plead the welfare of all mankind. He had a wenderful gift at finding and bringing together what he wanted, though lying far off and agart. It was his wont to march straight forward to his end; but he knew how to turn aside from an attack, to retreat with his eye ever on his memy, and then, by an unexpected reversion, to strike him suddenly as with talous. When involved in dispute, he dashed at the central idea, which was of power to decide the question; grasped it firmly and held it fast; turned it over and over on every side; presented it in the most various aspects; came hack to dwell upon it with fireth force; renewed how after blow till it became amealed like steel. He hit the nail again and again, and always on the head, till he drove it home into the minds of his hearers; and when he was becton by the majority, he still lore away the palm as a wreater. His merits, as summed up by Mackintosh, were "reason, simplicity, and yehemence."

But the earnest student of historical causes and developments will perhaps find the most valuable features in the volume, the chapters which are devoted to the progress of legislation, and the political relations and agencies which prepared the complete establishment of our national independence. The course of opinion in England, the position of the Cabinates of France and Spain, and the intellectual con-

tablishment of our national independence. The course of opinion in England, the position of the Cabinets of France and Spain, and the intellectual convictions of eminent thinkers on the Continent, are set forth in their influence on American affairs with remarkable insight and discrimination. In discussions of this nature, Mr. Bancroft may claim preëminence among most historical writers of highest note. His acquaintance with the details of European and American diplomacy, and his life-long connection with the politics of the country, give him a singular advantage over merely speculative scholars, and attach a weight to his conclusions that cannot be commanded by the resources of literary art.

LITERARY ITEMS.

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T. B. Peterson & Brothers have in press and will ublish December 15th, a new book by Mrs. Emma D. E. N. outhworth, entitled "The Bride of Liewellyn."

"London Society," a popular English magazine which has now a large circulation in this country, is to be re-printed by Messrs. Hard & Houghton, by arrangement with the London publishers. It will be elegantly printed at the Riverside Press. The issue will commence with the January number, which may be expected on the first day of that month.

The author of "Life in the Iron Mills," and "Margaret Howth," is Mrs. Rebecca Harding Davis of Philadelphia. She is now engaged upon a new novel which is by far the most claborate work she has yet undertaken. It will be a story of characteristic American life, dealing with some of our great social questions, and will appear in installments in The Galaxy every fortnight.

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